

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method for preparing high-purity germanium hydride by electrolysis of an aqueous-alkaline solution, containing germanium dioxide, at a nickel cathode in a diaphragm cell at a current density of 1.0-1.5 A/cm² with subsequent isolation of the germanium hydride from the ~~mixture~~resolution with hydrogen, ~~the electrolysis being performed with~~while cross-mixing of (i) electrolyte from the cathode chamber, after removal of germanium hydride and hydrogen, into the anode chamber, and ~~a stream of~~(ii) electrolyte from the anode chamber, after removal of oxygen, into the cathode chamber, ~~characterized in that~~said method comprising the steps of:

passing an electrical current ~~is first passed through~~ the aqueous-alkaline solution ~~for the time needed to achieve the minimum possible content of~~ contaminants limiting for germanium hydride, after which to minimize the concentration of contaminants in the aqueous-alkaline solution, then

adding germanium dioxide ~~is added~~ to the aqueous-alkaline solution in a concentration of from not less than 40 g/l to the solubility limit, and

performing electrolysis ~~is performed~~ at a temperature no higher than 65°C.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, essentially, wherein~~ germanium dioxide is added to the solution to a concentration of 50 g/l and electrolysis is performed at a temperature of 65°C.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ the germanium hydride is concentrated before isolation using a gas-diffusion membrane.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ the gas-diffusion membrane may be made from polymeric material, or from metal, or from ceramic.

5. (Current Amended) ~~Method~~A method for preparing high-purity germanium hydride by electrolysis of an aqueous-alkaline solution, containing germanium dioxide, at a nickel cathode in a diaphragm cell at a current density of 1.0-1.5 A/cm² with subsequent isolation of the germanium hydride from the mixture with hydrogen, ~~the electrolysis being performed with~~ cross-mixing of electrolyte streams[,] by feeding a stream of electrolyte from the cathode chamber, after removal of germanium hydride and hydrogen, into the anode chamber, and a stream of electrolyte from the anode chamber, after removal of oxygen, into the cathode chamber, ~~characterized in that~~said method comprising the steps of:

~~passing an electrical current is first passed~~ through the aqueous-alkaline solution ~~for the time needed to achieve the minimum possible content~~ to minimize the concentration of contaminants ~~limiting for germanium hydride, after which germanium dioxide is added in the aqueous-alkaline solution, then~~

adding germanium dioxide to the solution in a concentration of from not less than 40 g/l to the solubility limit, and

~~performing electrolysis is performed~~ at a temperature no higher than 65°C, ~~and after isolation the germanium hydride is purified, preferably by the membrane method, and~~

isolating the germanium hydride.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that, essentially, wherein~~ germanium dioxide is added to the solution to a concentration of 50 g/l and electrolysis is performed at a temperature of 65°C.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the germanium hydride is concentrated before isolation using a gas-diffusion membrane.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the germanium hydride obtained after isolation is purified using a gas-diffusion membrane.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method according to claim 8,
~~characterized in that~~wherein after purification using a gas-diffusion membrane,
the germanium hydride is additionally purified by being passed through an
ultrafiltration membrane.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein further comprising the step of
purifying the germanium hydride.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said purifying step involves a
membrane method of purification.

13. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the membrane is
made from a polymeric material, or from metal, or from ceramic.